

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 099379

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, CB (CHENG HENG)

EXDIS

SUBJECT: CARE, MAINTENANCE AND ONWARD TRAVEL OF CHENG HENG

REFS: A. PARIS 10657; B. PARIS 09804; C. PARIS 10488;

D. STATE 87818; E. PARIS 09616

1. DEPARTMENT REGRETS DELAY IN REPLYING TO MESSAGES REGARDING CHENG HENG BUT HAS BEEN EXAMINING THE QUESTION OF WHAT CAN BE DONE FOR FORMERLY HIGH RANKING CAMBODIAN OFFICIALS. IN LIGHT OF OUR CONCLUSIONS (SEE SEPTTEL), YOU ARE REQUESTED INFORM CHENG HENG THAT UNDER OUR LAWS WE FIND THAT WE CANNOT ACCEDE TO HIS SUGGESTION FOR A PROPERTY FOR HIMSELF AND HIS FAMILY. HOWEVER, WE SHALL BE HAPPY TO ACCORD HIM AND HIS FAMILY ASYLUM IN THE US, TEMPORARY HOUSING AND HELP IN FINDING WORK AND A PLACE TO SETTLE. BY LAW, OUR ASSISTANCE CAN ONLY BE MODERATE SINCE IT MUST BE SHARED BY MANY AND MUST BE GIVEN THROUGH NON-GOVERNMENTAL VOLUNTARY AGENCIES. THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION OF ANY SPECIAL STATUS.

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2. IN CONCRETE TERMS, WHICH WE ARE CONFIDENT YOU WILL EXPLAIN TO CHENG HENG IN BEST POSSIBLE WAY SO AS TO OBTAIN HIS UNDERSTANDING AND EASE HIS DISAPPOINTMENT, THERE IS VERY LITTLE WE CAN DO FOR HIM AND HIS FAMILY. WENOTEFROM A LETTER HE HAS SENT TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS THAT

THERE ARE 11 MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY PRESENTLY IN FRANCE AND ASSUME HE WISHES TO BRING THEM ALL TO THE US. HE MUST BE MADE AWARE, HOWEVER, THAT UNDER PRESENT LAW ALL WE CAN DO IS TO PAY FOR TRANSPORTATION OF THE FAMILY AND BAGGAGE TO NEW YORK OR SOME OTHER PLACE (PERHAPS WASHINGTON WHERE SON-IN-LAW LIVES) WHERE HE MIGHT WISH TO GO, MODEST LODGING UPON ARRIVAL AND HELP TO HIM AND HIS FAMILY IN FINDING EMPLOYMENT. WE ALSO SEE THAT ONE OF HIS FAMILY IS A SURGEON AND BELIEVE YOU SHOULD ALERT HIM TO THE FACT THAT FOR A FOREIGN DOCTOR TO PRACTICE IN THE US REQUIRES TIME SINCE HE MUST REQUALIFY UNDER AMERICAN REGULATIONS.

3. AS CONCERNS PAYMENT OF HIS (AND WE ASSUME HIS FAMILY'S) EXPENSES IN PARIS SINCE HIS ARRIVAL, WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT IS INVOLVED BEFORE COMMITTING USG.

4. IN CONCLUSION, YOU ARE INSTRUCTED TO PERFORM DELICATE AND DIFFICULT JOBWHICH MAY WELL CAUSE DISAPPOINTMENT AND BITTERNESS. CHENG HENG SHOULD UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT UNDER PRESENT LAWS THERE IS NOTHING MORE WE CAN DO. WE SYMPATHIZE WITH AMBASSADOR RUSH'S VIEWS AS EXPRESSED TO DEAN BROWN. NEVERTHELESS, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, WE HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO DO MORE FOR OTHER FORMER NATIONAL LEADERS, SUCH AS KERENSKY, SYNGMAN RHEE AND OTHERS. IN SOME CASES, THEIR NATIONALS LIVING IN THE US HELPED THEM, IN OTHERS THEY WERE LIMITED TO MODEST ASSISTANCE.

5. FYI. LETTERS TO THE PRESIDENT AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS BEING ANSWERED BY LATTER VIA PERSONAL LETTER. END FYI. KISSINGER

NOTE: REFTEL RAISED TO EXDIS PER MR. HOGANSON, S/S-O.
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